

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEMIREL PRESS CONFERENCE: FOREIGN POLICY

1. ON DECEMBER 18 PRIMIN DEMIREL HELD HIS SEVENTH PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE BECOMING PRIMIN. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN AS DEMIREL REITERATED THE BASIC FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY CONCERNS THAT HE HAS STATED IN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCES AND PRESS STATEMENTS. AS WITH PREVIOUS PRESS CONFERENCES, DEMIREL FIRST DISCUSSED DOMESTIC AND ECONOMIC MATTERS (SEPTEL) BEFORE TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

2. ISLAMIC WORLD: DEMIREL DISCUSSED AT LENGTH TURKISH RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND THE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO TURKEY FROM ITS EXPANDED COOPERATION WITH OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNUSUAL PROMINENCE GIVEN TO THIS SUBJECT SUGGESTS THAT DEMIREL DOES NOT WANT TO LET HIS COALITION PARTNER, THE ISLAMIC-FUNDAMENTALIST NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), MONPOLIZE CREDIT WITH RELIGIOUSLY-ORIENTED VOTERS FOR TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH OTHER ISLAMIC COUNTRIES).

3. USSR: DEMIREL, IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT, RECAPITULATED THE FACTS ON INCREASED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD MEET SOVIET PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN FOR THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES FOR THE ARPACAY DAM AND THAT ONE OF THEM WOULD VISIT THE OTHER'S COUNTRY FOR A FEW HOURS. WINTER HAD SET IN NOW AND THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMITTED. CONCERNING THE SIGNING OF A POLITICAL DOCUMENT, HE SAID THERE WAS NO RPT NO AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT AND THAT TURKEY HAD NOT RPT NOT COMMITTED ITSELF.

4. CYPRUS: DEMIREL REPEATED THE LANGUAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ON CYPRUS (APPARENTLY A POINTED REJOINER TO THE NSP'S REPEATED URGING OF IMMEDIATE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR TURKISH CYPRUS). DEMIREL ATTRIBUTED THE LACK OF A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT TO THE "LONG-TERM STRUGGLE" PREFERENCE OF THE GREEK-CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP AND CALLED FOR A RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT DELAY, AS CALLED FOR IN THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT.

5. AEGEAN: DEMIREL REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE GREEK AND TURKISH POSITIONS HAD AGREED THAT NEITHER SIDE WOULD MAKE DETAILED STATEMENTS UNTIL A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. DEMIREL DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT "FORGO AN IOTA" OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OR INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH GREECE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. CONCERNING THE AIR SPACE DISPUTE, HE SAID, "I THINK IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT NOR WILL IT TAKE TOO LONG TO ACHIEVE RESULTS ON THIS QUESTION."

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6. U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS: DEMIREL NOTED (AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY) THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD AUTHORIZED CREDIT AND CASH SALES TO TURKEY. "IN THIS WAY," SAID DEMIREL, "IT COULD BE SAID THAT THE EMBARGO IMPOSED ON FEBRUARY 5, 1975 HAS, IN EFFECT, BEEN LIFTED." DEMIREL WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONGRESSIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL "WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD" OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR RESTORING THE "NORMAL COURSE" OF DEFENSE RELATIONS. IN THE QUESTION PERIOD, DEMIREL DENIED THAT TURKEY HAD GIVEN THE U.S. A DEADLINE. HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED ONLY THAT THE DCA BE RATIFIED WITHIN A "REASONABLE PERIOD" AND IF IT WERE NOT DONE WITHIN THAT PERIOD, "RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WOULD NOT (RPT NOT) BE RESTORED." CONCERNING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, DEMIREL SAID, "WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT CHANGES IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT AFFECT OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS OR THE BASIC REALITIES UPON WHICH OUR RELATIONSHIP RESTS. WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW ANY INDICATION OR STATEMENT WHICH CONFIRMS THIS AS A SIGN OF POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF TURKISH-AMERICAN

RELATIONS."

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